

Message Text

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FOR USDEL TO HRC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNHRC, SHUM

SUBJECT: 34TH HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION -- DRAFT U.S.
STATEMENT ON HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS (ITEM 12)

REF: GENEVA 3416

1. DEPARTMENT APPROVES DRAFT U.S. STATEMENT ON HUMAN
RIGHTS VIOLATIONS SUBMITTED REFTEL. WE HAVE SEVERAL
SUGGESTED CHANGES.

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2. IN GENERAL, WE AGREE THAT THRUST OF STATEMENT SHOULD
BE CONCERNED WITH HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION RESPONSE TO
HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS. USDEL SHOULD REVIEW STATEMENT,
HOWEVER, TO ASSURE THAT USE OF WORD "WE" REFERS THROUGHOUT
STATEMENT TO HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION COLLECTIVELY AS
DISTINCT FROM POSITION OF U.S. GOVERNMENT.

3. THIRD SENTENCE IN SECTION ON KAMPUCHEA SHOULD BE CHANGED TO READ AS FOLLOWS: "EXTENSIVE KILLINGS HAVE TAKEN PLACE AND SUPPORTERS OF THE PREVIOUS REGIME HAVE BEEN MASSACRED".

4. ON SOVIET PORTION OF DRAFT STATEMENT, WE BELIEVE THE ISSUES RAISED ARE THE PROPER ONES. HOWEVER, IT WOULD NOT BE USEFUL AT THIS TIME TO GO INTO TOO MANY SPECIFICS,

PARTICULARLY ON THE SHCHARANSKY CASE, WHICH WE FEEL SHOULD BE GENERALIZED TO INCLUDE ALL THE HELSINKI GROUP MEMBERS ARRESTED IN THE USSR. (HOWEVER, IN ACCORDANCE WITH MEZVINSKY CONVERSATION WITH MARSHALL SHULMAN, IF IN YOUR JUDGEMENT IT SEEMS NECESSARY TO USE REFERENCE TO SHCHARANSKY CASE IN ORIGINAL DRAFT STATEMENT, YOU MAY DO SO.) FOLLOWING SECTION ON USSR MAY THEREFORE BE INCLUDED IN STATEMENT. BEGIN TEXT:

"FOR EXAMPLE, WE SHOULD BE DEEPLY TROUBLED BY REPORTS OF PERSECUTION OF RELIGIOUS BELIEVERS IN THE SOVIET UNION. HOW DO WE ANSWER THE PRIEST WHOSE ONLY APPEAL NOW IS FOR A BIBLE WHILE SERVING A HARSH FIFTEEN-YEAR SENTENCE IN A SOVIET LABOR COLONY? HOW DO WE RESPOND TO THE DISTURBING REPORTS OF ANTI-SEMITISM IN THE OFFICIAL SOVIET PUBLICATIONS AND IN THE MEDIA. AND SHOULD WE NOT BE EQUALLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE ARRESTS OF SOME FIFTEEN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SOVIET CITIZENS WHOSE ONLY CRIME WAS TO MONITOR THEIR GOVERNMENT'S IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT. SHOULDN'T ALL CITIZENS BE PERMITTED TO LIVE WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THEIR COUNTRY IN ACCORDANCE WITH INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTED STANDARDS OF HUMAN RIGHTS. AND IF THEY FIND THEY CANNOT, SHOULD THEY NOT BE PERMITTED TO LEAVE AND SETTLE IN ANOTHER COUNTRY, A RIGHT CLEARLY SET FORTH AS BASIC IN THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS. DESPITE SIGNS OF PROGRESS, WE DO NOT FIND THIS RIGHT FULLY AND CONSISTENTLY RESPECTED BY THE SOVIET UNION." END TEXT.

5. DEPARTMENT BELIEVES THAT USDEL MAY WISH TO CLARIFY PROPOSAL ON OPEN HEARINGS FOR PERSONS WHOSE HUMAN RIGHTS HAVE BEEN VIOLATED TO AVOID MISUNDERSTANDING THAT THESE HEARINGS MIGHT CONFLICT WITH EXISTING CONFIDENTIAL PROCEDURES. IN FACT, SUCH A PROPOSAL COULD GENERATE MORE CURRENT INFORMATION ON HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMISSION UNDER 1503 PROCEDURES.

6. DEPARTMENT COMMENTS ON ARGENTINA SECTION OF STATEMENT FOLLOWS BY SEPT. CHRISTOPHER

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